

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 20, 25, and 26 as follows:

1-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) A data communication apparatus comprising:

a connector, arranged to connect to a host computer;

a receiver, arranged to receive a command from the host computer through said connector;

an analysis unit, arranged to analyze the command received by said receiver;

a transmitter, arranged to transmit to the host computer a response in accordance with an analysis result of said analysis unit;

a monitoring unit, arranged to monitor whether a status of said data communication apparatus has been changed; ~~and~~

a controller, arranged to add information unrelated to the command analyzed by said analysis unit to the response transmitted to the host computer, and to cause said transmitter to transmit the response with the added information concurrently; and [[,]]

a managing unit, arranged to manage whether status information indicating the status of said data communication apparatus has been transmitted to the host computer by said transmitter after the status, as monitored by said monitoring unit, has been changed,

wherein in response to the command not being a command requesting a status of said data communication apparatus, said controller adds the information, which is related to a status of said data communication apparatus, to a response corresponding to the command, to prompt the host computer to issue an additional command for discriminating the status in a

case where the status of said data communication apparatus, as monitored by said monitoring unit, has been changed, while said controller does not add the information in a case where the status of said data communication apparatus, as monitored by said monitoring unit, has not been changed, and

wherein in response to the command being a command requesting a status of said data communication apparatus, said controller does not add the information to the response, and [[.]]

wherein said controller causes said transmitter to transmit, in response to the additional command from the host computer, such status information that, as managed by said managing unit, has not been transmitted.

21. (Previously Presented) A data communication apparatus according to Claim 20, wherein the added information is information indicating that a change in a status of said data communication apparatus has occurred.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Previously Presented) A data communication apparatus according to Claim 20, further comprising a storage unit, arranged to store status information indicating a status of said data communication apparatus, wherein said transmitter transmits the status information stored in said storage unit when said receiver receives a command requesting the status of said data communication apparatus.

24. (Previously Presented) A data communication apparatus according to Claim 23, further comprising a reader, a printer, and a facsimile communication unit, wherein said storage unit stores information indicating a status of said reader, said printer, and said facsimile communication unit.

25. (Currently Amended) A communication method for use in a data communication apparatus, said method comprising the steps of:

connecting to a host computer;

receiving a command from the host computer through a connection formed in said connecting step;

analyzing the received command;

transmitting to the host computer a response in accordance with an analysis result obtained in said analyzing step;

monitoring whether a status of the data communication apparatus has been changed; ~~and~~

selectively adding information unrelated to the command analyzed in said analyzing step to the response transmitted to the host computer; ~~[[, and]]~~

transmitting the response with the added information concurrently; ~~and [[,]]~~

managing whether status information indicating the status of the data communication apparatus has been transmitted in said transmitting step to the host computer after the status, as monitored in said monitoring step, has been changed,

wherein in response to the command not being a command requesting a status of the data communication apparatus, the information, which is related to a status of the data communication apparatus, is added to a response corresponding to the command, to prompt

the host computer to issue an additional command for discriminating the status in a case where the status of the data communication apparatus, as monitored by said monitoring step, has been changed, while the information is not added in a case where the status of the data communication apparatus, as monitored by said monitoring step, has not been changed, ~~and~~

wherein in response to the command being a command requesting a status of the data communication apparatus, the information is not added to the response, and

wherein in response to the additional command from the host computer, such status information that, as managed in said managing step, has not been transmitted, is transmitted in said transmitting step.

26. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing a computer-readable program for implementing a communication method in a data communication apparatus, the program comprising:

program code for a connection step of connecting the data communication apparatus to a host computer;

program code for a reception step of receiving a command from the host computer through a connection formed in the connection step;

program code for an analysis step of analyzing the received command;

program code for a transmission step of transmitting to the host computer a response in accordance with an analysis result; ~~and~~

program code for a monitoring step of monitoring whether a status of the data communication apparatus has been changed; ~~and~~

program code for an information addition step of adding information unrelated to the command analyzed in the analysis step to the response transmitted to the host computer and causing the response with the added information to be transmitted concurrently; and [[,]]

program code for a managing step of managing whether status information indicating the status of the data communication apparatus has been transmitted in said transmitting step to the host computer after the status, as monitored in said monitoring step, has been changed.

wherein in response to the command not being a command requesting a status of the data communication apparatus, the information, which is related to a status of the data communication apparatus, is added to a response corresponding to the command, to prompt the host computer to issue an additional command for discriminating the status in a case where the status of the data communication apparatus, as monitored by said monitoring step, has been changed, while the information is not added in a case where the the status of the data communication apparatus, as monitored by said monitoring step, has not been changed, and

wherein in response to the command being a command requesting a status of the data communication apparatus, the information is not added to the response, and

wherein in response to the additional command from the host computer, such status information that, as managed in said managing step, has not been transmitted, is transmitted in said transmitting step.